

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims presently pending in this application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,747,919 to Gandhi (hereinafter “Gandhi”); and claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Gandhi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,910,560 to Nagashima et al. (hereinafter “Nagashima”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

A. Independent Claim 1:

Claim 1, which is amended for clarification, recites *inter alia*:

wherein the entirety of said body and said lamp-side connector are made of a glass-fiber-reinforced plastic. (emphasis added).

An exemplary embodiment of this feature is discussed throughout the specification, and depicted in Fig 2.¹ In Fig. 2, the plug body is designated with reference character 2, and the lamp-side connector at the rear end portion of the plug body 2 is designated with reference character C₂. The lamp-side connector C₂ is attachable to a

¹ For example, see Spec., p.11, l. 23 - p. 13, l. 5.

power-supplying connector C_1 . At least this feature of the invention, i.e., the body including the lamp-side connector both being made of a glass-fiber-reinforced plastic, is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Gandhi discloses an electric lamp with an improved lamp base. The improved base has a hybrid construction (i.e., a plastic skirt 37 mechanically connected to a metallic skirt 40).² Specifically, with reference to Fig. 2, Gandhi's lamp base 15 includes (1) a plastic skirt 37 formed of synthetic resin, and (2) a metallic skirt 40 for receiving an end portion of a lamp envelope 1 (see Fig. 1). Gandhi does not, however, indicate that either of these elements 37, 40 is made of glass-fiber-reinforced plastic. All of Gandhi's disclosed embodiments are similar in this regard.

In fact, the Examiner compares the claimed lamp-side connector to the threaded shell 30 in Gandhi, not the plastic skirt 37 or the metallic skirt 40. The threaded shell 30 is formed of metal, not glass-fiber-reinforced plastic. See Gandhi at col. 7, lines 42-44. The Examiner refers to Table I of Gandhi (cols. 5-6) as disclosing all-plastic bases. However, there is no indication that the threaded shell 30 is also

² Gandhi (1:39-44).

made of plastic. To the contrary, as pointed out above, Gandhi specifically indicates that the threaded shell 30 is made of metal.

Clearly then, the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn based on the foregoing amendment to claim 1 and the preceding remarks.

In addition, although Gandhi discloses a comparative example in which the skirts 37 and 40 (only the skirts, not the threaded shell 30) are both formed of glass reinforced nylon (Table 1 - cols. 5 and 6), the reference discloses that an all plastic construction (and particularly one using glass reinforced plastics) is highly undesirable, and thus actually teaches away from the present invention. See col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 23.

B. Dependent Claim 2:

Aside from its dependency from claim 1, claim 2 is believed to be separately patentable for the reason discussed below.

The Examiner asserts that Gandhi discloses a material including "20 weight % to 80 weight % glass fibers contained in a polyphenylene sulfide resin," as recited claim 2. However, the Examiner is apparently unable to cite to a specific portion of

Gandhi to support this assertion. In fact, Gandhi is believed to be silent in this regard. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion for this feature of the invention, and that claim 2 is therefore separately patentable.

C. Dependent Claim 5:

Claim 5 is also believed to be separately patentable.

The Examiner admits that Gandhi fails to teach the specific weight % range required by claim 5, and instead relies on Nagashima as to this feature. However, since Gandhi specifically teaches away from using glass fiber reinforced plastic for the body and lamp-side connector, there simply would have been no motivation, absent the proscribed use of hindsight, to modify Gandhi in view of Nagashima.

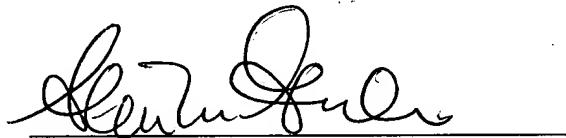
For all of the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2 and 5 are each separately patentable, and that claims 3, 4, and 6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby

solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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